#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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#### FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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JASON GOODMAN

Case No.: 1:21-cv-10878-AT-JLC

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VS.

RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS

CHRISTOPHER ELLIS BOUZY, BOT SENTINEL, INC, GEORGE WEBB

SWEIGERT, DAVID GEORGE SWEIGERT, BENJAMIN WITTES, NINA JANKOWICZ, ADAM SHARP, MARGARET ESQUENET, THE ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS

AND SCIENCES, SETH BERLIN, MAXWELL MISHKIN

Plaintiff,

Defendants

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Pro Se plaintiff Jason Goodman ("Goodman") respectfully submits this response in opposition to defendants Benjamin Wittes ("Wittes") and Nina Jankowicz ("Jankowicz") motion for sanctions pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 11.

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#### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Goodman has never brought a lawsuit for an improper purpose. Beginning in 2017,

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David George Sweigert ("Sweigert") and others began a "lawfare" assault against Goodman, weaponizing legal process and bombarding him with multiple simultaneous civil suits, false statements to law enforcement and various government agencies. These burdensome actions were exacerbated by a persistent and wide-ranging campaign of cyber stalking and cyber harassment primarily executed by Sweigert, in support of and cooperation with each of the named defendants. Both defendants Wittes and Jankowicz are high profile public figures. They are each involved in work with the U.S. Government. They both speak publicly with regularity RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 1

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

brother, George Webb Sweigert ("Webb"), in publishing a series of videos on YouTube. While

Negron were present. At the outset of the meeting, Ortel received an unexpected phone call from

an associate of defendant Wittes'. Wall Street Journal writer Shane Harris ("Harris") was about

to publish a series of articles concerning the recent death of Ortel's close associate Peter Smith

("Smith"). The death was ruled a suicide, but Ortel and others who knew Smith found that and

other reported details dubious. Goodman was intrigued and began his own investigation with the

advantage of having access to Ortel's private communications with Smith. Harris published

numerous articles and appeared on Wittes Lawfare podcast, repeating information that was

sought-clinton-emails-from-hackers-implied-a-connection-to-flynn-1498770851)

contradicted by emails sent from Smith to Ortel. (https://www.wsj.com/articles/gop-operative-

collaborating with Goodman, Webb and non-party Patricia Negron ("Negron") arranged an

interview with Charles Ortel ("Ortel"). At Goodman's first meeting with Ortel, Webb and

For approximately three months during 2017, Goodman collaborated with Sweigert's

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RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 2

and have both been featured on numerous podcasts and major media outlets. The claims in their motion for sanctions reveal that they are unable to discern unfavorable but true investigative reporting from what they disingenuously and inaccurately describe as "harassment". Goodman has not been charged, convicted, or even legitimately accused of harassing anyone. Goodman has not engaged in activities that meet the elements of harassment in either his home jurisdiction or that of the defendants. Ironically, defendants through their cooperation with Sweigert and others have harassed Goodman incessantly concurrent with making numerous false statements to courts, law enforcement and the public with the intent of harming Goodman.

These Smith emails had not been seen by the public or Harris, but Ortel had discussed their contents with Goodman. Goodman presumed journalists focused on the Smith story would want to know that his messages with Ortel told a different story than their reporting. Goodman set out in good faith to contact both Harris and Wittes, to share information with them, and allow them to draw their own conclusions. After many, many attempts to contact both men, Goodman was rebuffed in ways that caused him to believe they were actively avoiding the information.

This caused Goodman to use sharper criticism in an effort to focus on the facts. (EXHIBIT A)

Coincident with Goodman's discussion of these matters with Wittes, defendant Christopher Bouzy ("Bouzy") inserted himself into the debate and began harassing Goodman in ways that have been previously described to the court. Wittes has still not answered the well-founded questions that have led Goodman to the conclusion that Wittes would prefer to destroy Goodman by burdening him with harassment and lawfare than be compelled to answer.

#### GOODMAN HAS NOT HARASSED WITTES

Wittes is the co-founder of lawfareblog.com. In his own description of the website, written September 1, 2010, Wittes admits that lawfare as a practice is "the use of law as a weapon". (*See* <a href="https://www.lawfareblog.com/welcome-lawfare">https://www.lawfareblog.com/welcome-lawfare</a>)

This is precisely what defendants are attempting with their motion for sanctions and their other unjust and dishonest actions. They cannot rely on facts, and they cannot refute Goodman's well-founded claims, so they resort to weaponizing and abusing the legal process. Defendants are so desperate to keep the facts and evidence revealed by Goodman hidden, that they rely on intimidation to dissuade him from continuing this action or allowing it to proceed to discovery. The Court is aware that immediately upon learning plaintiff would leave his home in New York for an extended time, Jankowicz, with the assistance of Sweigert, her attorney Liz Lockwood RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 3

("Lockwood") and at the direction of Wittes, filed a police report with the Arlington PD containing false claims calculated to harm Goodman. (See ECF No. 163 Page 10 of 23)

It is inaccurate to state that Goodman "threatened" to appear at an event Wittes was scheduled to speak at. Wittes is a public speaker and Goodman is the host of an interactive online talk show. Goodman communicates with his audience regularly. Although defendants do not cite any specific statement by Goodman, to the best of his recollection, when he learned that Wittes would be speaking at an event, open to the public, Goodman discussed with his audience, the prospect of going there to participate and attempt to ask the questions in person. This is what any attendee at a public speaking event might do and it was Goodman's only intention with regard to that event. Contemplating going to listen to or interact with a public figure at a public event does not constitute a threat. Goodman does not recall the details of the event or it's cancellation, but it is equally likely that Wittes canceled the event out of concern he might be confronted with questions he desperately does not want asked. Contrary to the false and conclusory statements asserted by defendants, every claim Goodman has made is well founded and backed by evidence. Goodman is eager to convene a hearing at which defendants would be compelled to answer to the cited evidence under oath.

#### WELL FOUNDED CLAIMS INTENDED TO SERVE JUSTICE

Goodman is not a "serial litigant" as defendants allege. Goodman has only brought two lawsuits in his life, this instant action, and Goodman v Sharp (Case 1:21-cv-10627-VEC). By contrast, Goodman has been stalked and harassed by defendants through more than half a dozen suits. Sweigert spends nearly every day devising new ways to harass, cyber stalk and otherwise disrupt Goodman. Each defendant in this action is alleged to have unlawfully cooperated with him at various times in furtherance of a pattern of related racketeering activity calculated to harm RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 4

Goodman. Even if Goodman's pro se pleadings have so far been inadequate to survive motions to dismiss, they are not without merit and they were not brought without good cause.

Goodman's criticism of Wittes, Jankowicz and the other defendants amount to verbal sparring in an arena where they could have chosen to block contact from Goodman if they objected. Wittes also could have contradicted any alleged false statement with countermanding facts, but he did neither. Wittes or Jankowicz could have sued or demanded a cease and desist if Goodman's statements about them were defamatory or untrue. None of these things occurred because Goodman did nothing wrong. Instead of taking the proper legal path to cure a legitimate injury, defendants have relied on deception and underhanded lawfare tactics intended to stymie Goodman and prevent the proper service of justice.

#### **BOUZY IS AN INTERNET HIT MAN IN SERVICE OF WITTES**

Bouzy has been effusive in his public praise of Wittes. Bouzy published an article on Wittes' Lawfare blog in defense of disgraced adulteress cum FBI agent Lisa Page ("Page") who is alleged to be a Bot Sentinel client. (<a href="https://www.lawfareblog.com/there-targeted-troll-campaign-against-lisa-page-bot-sentinel-investigation">https://www.lawfareblog.com/there-targeted-troll-campaign-against-lisa-page-bot-sentinel-investigation</a>). In the article, Bouzy admits that Wittes is in a regular practice of alerting Bouzy to issues of concern on Twitter, stating in part, "Over the weekend, Lawfare's Benjamin Wittes brought to my attention a suspicious pattern of replies to Page's tweet." Goodman alleges a similar alert was issued by Wittes during the online chat session in which Bouzy first attacked Goodman.

It is important to view these events in the context of Goodman's reporting. Goodman has revealed irrefutable evidence in support of his allegations that former President Barack Obama, in conjunction with defendant Sharp and Judge Valerie Caproni devised and executed a scheme in violation of the first, fourth and fourteenth amendments of the constitution and several state RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 5

and federal laws, to merge the U.S. Government and more specifically the FBI with Twitter. (https://crowdsourcethetruth.substack.com/p/the-twitter-coup).

As with Goodman's other allegations, each of the accused dismiss the detailed facts as "conspiracy theory" and do not contradict the claims or provide any evidence to refute any of Goodman's well-founded allegations. The House Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government is currently investigating Goodman's evidence and has not yet come to a conclusion. A hearing will be held on Monday April 17, 2023, at the Javits Federal Building. The Court should compel defendants to appear at its own separate hearing where they would respond to these claims under oath with something more substantial than "conspiracy theory".

Wittes is very involved in the FBI's entanglement with Twitter and has publicly referred to former FBI director Comey as a close friend. Comey has publicly stated that he reads the Lawfare blog every day. He also shares judge Caproni's constitution violating concerns about the FBI "going dark" (<a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2014/10/16/watch-fbi-director-james-comey-on-technology-law-enforcement-and-going-dark/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2014/10/16/watch-fbi-director-james-comey-on-technology-law-enforcement-and-going-dark/</a>).

Former FBI General Counsel James Baker ("Baker") would famously become Twitter's Deputy General Counsel after a short stint at Wittes' Lawfare following his disgraceful exit from the FBI. (<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/04/us/politics/james-baker-lisa-page-fbi.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/04/us/politics/james-baker-lisa-page-fbi.html</a>). The New York Times reported that Baker left the FBI at the same time Page did. Baker went to Lawfare, Bouzy began writing blog posts on Lawfare in defense of Page.

#### GOODMAN HAS NOT HARASSED JANKOWICZ

Goodman never harassed Jankowicz. Goodman called her once in May of 2022 to invite her to participate in an interview. The conversation was brief and Jankowicz politely declined stating she had already been the subject of harassment. This was Goodman's first contact with RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 6

Jankowicz so it is hard to understand how Goodman could have been harassing her if she declined the interview due to existing harassment. A day or two after the call, Goodman published his report on May 16, 2022. Jankowicz resigned from the DHS Disinformation Governance Board two days later. Goodman called again that day or shortly after, asking again for an interview considering the new condition might have lifted prior restrictions. Jankowicz became angry, instructed Goodman not to call her again and hung up the phone.

Goodman complied with this demand until January of 2023. It has been widely reported that Twitter was purchased in October 2022. Policy changes from Twitter's new management resulted in the restoration of Goodman's "@csthetruth" Twitter account on or about January 4. Goodman used the account to Tweet about his news report on Jankowicz, and the account was disabled less than twenty-four hours later. Goodman called Jankowicz to alert her of possible legal action against her as a result of the false claim to Twitter and the lost access to the same Twitter account Bouzy had previously destroyed. This is the Twitter account that contains evidence of Goodman's interactions with Wittes and Bouzy. When Jankowicz failed to respond, Goodman emailed a litigation warning demanding a retraction of the false claim. When Jankowicz failed to respond to the email, Goodman brought this legal action. It is false to state this legal action is without merit or that it was brought for an improper purpose. Goodman gave Jankowicz fair and legitimate warning which she chose to ignore. Had she withdrawn her false Twitter complaint, or provided any legitimate response at all, she would not have been sued.

Jankowicz claimed at the Arlington hearing that she did not make the complaint to Twitter. While this seems implausible on its face, if the complaint was not made by Jankowicz, it is likely to have been made by Sweigert. No other individual monitors Goodman's activity more closely than Sweigert. His psychotic obsession with Goodman is deeply disturbing and RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 7

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causes Goodman to feel he is constantly in danger anywhere he travels. Complaints against Goodman's social media accounts happen within minutes of content being posted. Concurrent with the attack on Goodman's valuable branded social media properties, and after learning Goodman would be out of New York for days or weeks, Jankowicz or an agent of Jankowicz made false claims calculated to harm Goodman on a petition filed with the Arlington General District Court. (EXHIBIT B)

On the petition, Jankowicz named Goodman as the respondent and falsely stated he had subjected her to "an act of violence, force or threat". No such thing ever occurred. In the Arlington hearing, Jankowicz admitted Goodman did not threaten her, but rather an unnamed individual who Jankowicz presumed had watched Goodman's broadcast did. The person has not been identified. Goodman cannot be held accountable for the actions of unknown individuals and no evidence of the alleged harassment has been presented beyond claims made by Jankowicz. Despite these facts, astoundingly and in violation of Goodman's first and fourteenth amendment rights, Jankowicz did obtain an order against Goodman. The order has been appealed and a hearing is pending.

#### GOODMAN SHOULD NOT BE ENJOINED

Goodman's success rate as a litigant is admittedly low. This is because Goodman is not an attorney, has no legal training and prior to the lawfare onslaught initiated by Sweigert and his coconspirators, Goodman has never been involved in any litigation of this nature prior to 2017. Goodman's action as a plaintiff has not been vexatious or without good cause as falsely described by defendants. Goodman was forced to file Goodman v Sharp after Sharp and his attorney Margaret Esquenet ("Esquenet") conspired with Sweigert to calculate a plant to sue a fictitious corporate entity that sufficiently resembled the name of Goodman's corporation, RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 8

compelling a response. Judge Valerie Caproni presided over Sweigert v Goodman *See* Case 1:18-cv-08653-VEC, the case was originally brought in the U.S. District Court for the district of South Carolina in June of 2018, and transferred to SDNY due to improper venue where it was assigned to Judge Caproni on or about September 2018. This was two years prior to defendants Sharp and Esquenet became involved in the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences v Multimedia System Design, Inc. dba Crowdsource the Truth ("NATAS v MSD"). A critical factor in NATAS v MSD is that Sharp, Esquenet and the entire Television Academy had no way of knowing the made up name "Multimedia System Design, Inc. dba Crowdsource the Truth" unless they heard it from Sweigert or an agent of Sweigert. They will fail to provide evidence that they learned this in any other way and should be compelled to.

Defendants should address this question at a hearing, under oath and answer how they learned of this fabricated corporate entity and explain what caused them to decide to sue this made-up fictional entity rather than Goodman himself. The sanctions motion cites previous sanctions against Goodman that were unjustly issued by Judge Valerie Caproni, an individual who has been admonished by both the house and senate for a disgraceful career-long history of violating and abusing American citizens' constitutional rights. This is precisely what the judge did in the show cause hearing about the email Goodman alleges Sweigert sent and that initiated NATAS v MSD. That case should not have been allowed to proceed considering 42 U.S. Code § 230 should prohibiting a corporate entity that is not Goodman from being sued for information posted on the internet by Goodman.

Goodman continues to allege that Sweigert conspired with Sharp and Esquenet to set a legal trap intended to compel Goodman to hire counsel to defend his corporation and deny him his right to a pro se defense. Judge Caproni sat idly by, taking no action whatsoever in Sweigert RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SANCTIONS - 9

v Goodman, Goodman v Sharp or NATAS v MSD to curb Sweigert's relentless harassment despite being fully aware of it. Judge Caproni's ruling in NATAS v MSD is also on appeal and Goodman's allegations against the judge are also currently being evaluated by Congress.

The only logical conclusion a reasonable observer could draw is that Judge Caproni supported Sweigert's efforts and ruled unfairly against Goodman because she too would be implicated in crimes against the people of the United States and gross violations of each of our constitutional rights should Goodman's claims be proven right. Even if this Court determines nothing can be done to serve justice in that matter, due to res judicata or other factors, it is undeniable that Sweigert has engaged in a pattern of acute and ongoing harassment and the defendants have relied on underhanded lawfare tactics rather than legitimate practice of law.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Goodman respectfully moves the Court deny the motion for sanctions and instead compel defendants to appear at an evidentiary hearing to answer for these matters under oath.

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Goodman, Plaintiff, Pro Se 252 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Apt 6s New York, NY 10001 (323) 744-7594

truth@crowdsourcethetruth.org

## (EXHIBIT A)

the funds was extended, the White House avoided effectively rescinding appropriated funding without Congressional approval which would have been a blatant impoundment violation under the relevant laws, including the ICA, the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act and the 2019 Appropriations Act. But it appears that OMB did not comply with relevant law when it delayed the release of the Defense Department's \$250 million in aid on grounds unrelated even to the permissible reasons for proposing such a delay under the ICA budgetary contingencies, savings through greater efficiency or the need to meet the parameters of specific funding laws.

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# CrowdsourcetheTruth @csthetruth

Lawfare blog is a social engineering cesspool and <a href="mailto:obernjaminwittes">obenjaminwittes</a> is a frequent liar who played an active role in a disinformation campaign intended to obscure the cause of death in the Peter Smith "suicide". Wittes should sue me if that's incorrect, but he won't because it isn't

12:58 PM · Nov 2, 2019

4 Retweets 3 Quotes 42 Likes

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(EXHIBIT B)

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PRELIMINARY PROTECTIVE ORDER	Case No
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 19.2-152.9  General District	Court [ ] Circuit Court [ ] Extension of Preliminary
	mestic Relations District Court Protective Order  PETITIONER'S DATE OF BIRTH 2/14-23-22
PETITIONER	PETHIONER'S DATE OF BIRTH
PURE JANKOWICZ, NINA	
And on behalf of minor family or household members: (list each name and date of birth)	Other protected family or household members: (list each name and date of birth)
V.	
RESPONDENT	RESPONDENT IDENTIFIERS (IF KNOWN)
GOODMAN, JASON	RACE SEX BORN HT. WGT. EYES HAIR MO. DAY YR. FT. IN.
LAST FIRST MIDDLE	W M
252 7TH AVE #65 RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS	SSN
NEW YORK, NY 10001	DRIVER'S LICENSE NO. STATE EXP.
[ ] CAUTION: Weapon Involved	Distinguishing features:
	FOR HEARING
THE COURT FINDS that it has jurisdiction over the parties and su  1. [ The Petitioner is, or has been, within a reasonable period	USE RD, ARLINGTON, VA 22201 for a hearing on this Petition.  [] CLERK DEPUTY CLERK  bject matter, and that ad of time, subjected to an act of violence, force or threat, OR bondent with a criminal offense resulting from the commission of an
[] The Respondent shall have no contact of any kind with the Petit  [] except as follows:elect	ly or household members of the Petitioner named 2000c

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GV23000106-00

Case No. .....

It is further ORDERED that a full hearing on the petition for a protective order be held at this Court on
* If the court is closed on the above date because the conditions constitute a threat to the health or safety of the general public or for another reason set forth in Va. Code § 16.1-69.35 or § 17.1-207, the full hearing will be held on the next day that the court is open, and this Preliminary Protective Order will remain in full force and effect until this order is dissolved by the court, another preliminary protective order is entered or a protective order is entered.
It is ORDERED that the Preliminary Protective Order is extended  as the Respondent failed to appear at the protective order hearing set for
Supplemental Sheet to Protective Order, Form DC-653, attached and incorporated by reference. No. of supplemental sheets

#### WARNINGS TO RESPONDENT:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 18.2-308.1:4, Respondent shall not purchase or transport any firearm while this order is in effect. If Respondent has a concealed handgun permit, Respondent must immediately surrender that permit to the court issuing this order. If Respondent violates the conditions of this order, Respondent may be sentenced to jail and/or ordered to pay a fine.

This order will be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network. Either party may at any time file a motion with the court requesting a hearing to dissolve or modify this order; however, this order remains in full force and effect unless and until dissolved or modified by the court. Only the court can change this order.

\* P.P.O is extended to February 14, 2023 at 2:00 pm, Fight 1/23/2023

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GV23000106-00

RESPONDENT:	PETITIONER: (See form DC-621, Non-DISCLOSURE ADDENDUM)
NAME	NAME Vankowicz Ning
ADDRESS	
TELEPHONE NUMBER	₩ PERSONAL SERVICE
NOT FOUND	[ ] NOT FOUND
SERVING OFFICER  for  Date and time	1/03/03 1/1/2
RESPONDENT'S DESCRIPTION (for VCIN ent	ry): [ ] Copy delivered to
RACE SEX	10:
DOB:	
HGT	L.
YES HAIR	by
Ns	
Relationship to Petitioner/Plaintiff	SIGNATURE
Distinguishing features	

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

"Act of violence, force, or threat" means any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury. Such act includes, but is not limited to, any forceful detention, stalking, criminal sexual assault in violation of Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et. seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, or any criminal offense that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury.

"Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, or (v) any individual who has a child in common with the defendant, whether or not the person and that individual have been married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous twelve (12) months, cohabitated with the person, and any children of either of them residing in the same home with the person.